

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Ecosystem management is the basis for natural resources management on USARAK lands. The INRMPs will serve as a tool for the development and implementation of the following ecosystem based management goals:

- ❖ Develop a vision of ecosystem health.
- ❖ Maintain and improve the sustainability and native diversity of ecosystems.
- ❖ Support sustainable human activities.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

The INRMPs will be prepared in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to reflect the mutual agreement of fish and wildlife conservation, protection, and management actions. On December 28, 2000, a formal agency consultation letter was mailed to the state and regional directors of the three agencies to notify them of USARAK's intent to update the INRMPs. Meetings and document review sessions have been scheduled between USARAK and the agencies in Fairbanks and Anchorage through August, 2001.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Land management issues on Army lands do not stop at property boundaries. USARAK's ecosystem management approach to natural resources management requires cooperative relations between federal, state, borough, and public entities. USARAK intends to involve the public in its natural resource management planning process using the following methods:

- ❖ Public input requests published in local Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Anchorage newspapers.
- ❖ Presentations at Fairbanks and Anchorage Restoration Advisory Board Meetings.
- ❖ Environmental Resources Newsletter published and distributed to interested parties including those listed on the USARAK mailing list.
- ❖ Public Issues Questionnaire to be distributed with the Environmental Resources Newsletter to gather public sentiment regarding land and natural resource management on military lands.
- ❖ Direct Point of Contact established at each post with the ability to be contacted by email.
- ❖ Information on INRMP development status, public comment requests, and copies of the draft document will be made available on the USARAK Environmental Resources Website (in development).

SCHEDULE

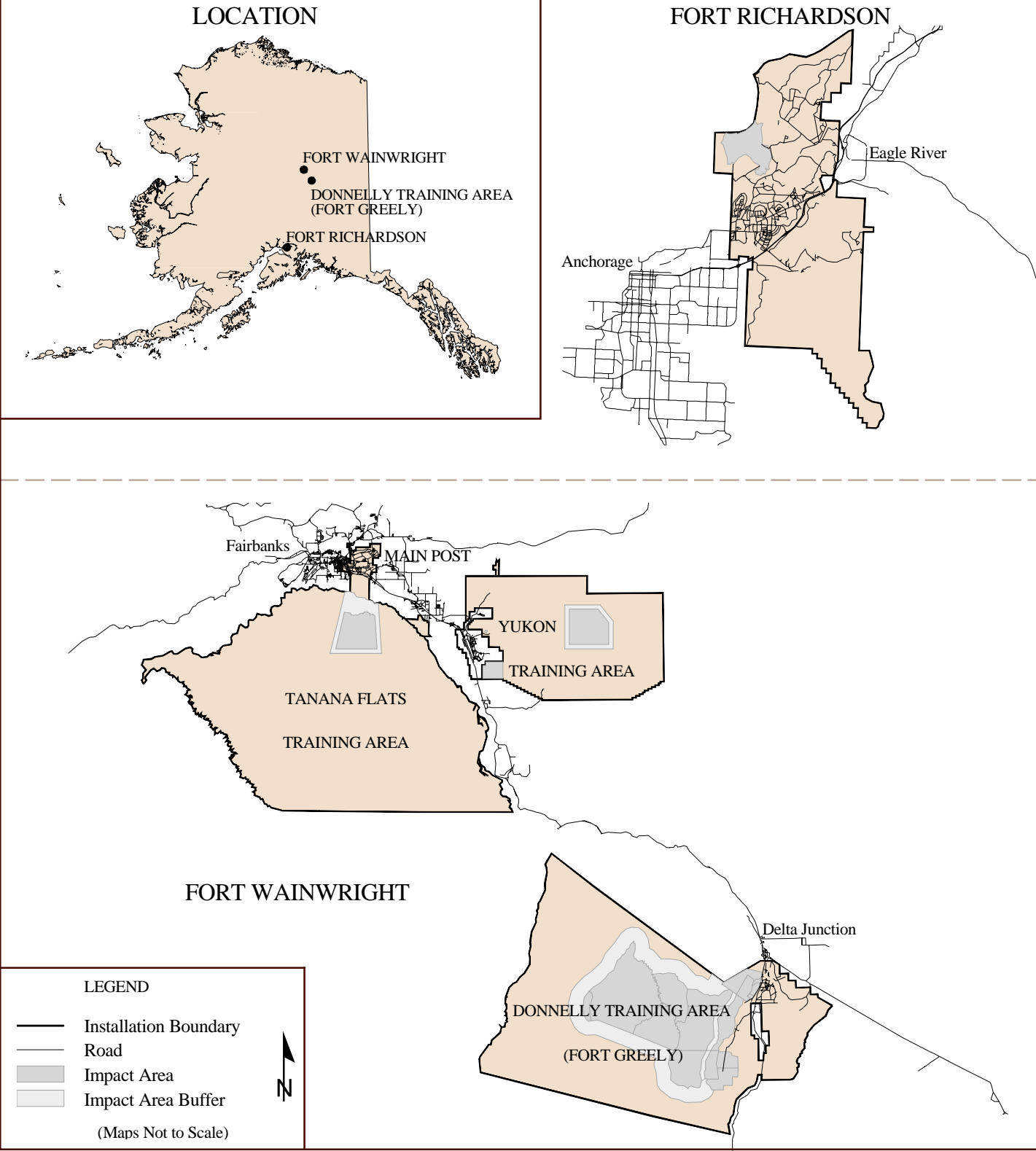
- ❖ February 2001 **Environmental Resources Newsletter** and Public Issues Questionnaire sent out to interested parties.
- ❖ February 21-22, 2001 **Agency Introduction Meetings**.
- ❖ March 1, 2001 **Notice to Update** INRMP published in Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Anchorage newspapers.
- ❖ June 21, 2001 **Public Review of Draft INRMP Begins**. Notice published in Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Anchorage newspapers. Environmental Resources Newsletter sent out to interested parties listing USARAK Environmental Resources Website address.

Continued on Page 3

SCHEDULE *CONTINUED*

- ❖ July 25, 2001 **Public Review Ends**.
- ❖ July 26 - September 30, 2001 **Incorporate Agency and Public Comments**.
- ❖ October 1, 2001 **Publish Final INRMP**.

USARAK LANDS COVERED BY INRMPs



Mailing List Reply Card

If you received this newsletter by mail, you are already on the mailing list. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive future issues of this newsletter please complete this reply card and mail to:

Carrie Barta
Directorate of Public Works
ATTN: APVR-WPW-EV
1060 Gaffney Road #6500
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-6500

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

You may submit your mailing requests, request to be removed from the mailing list, or obtain additional information about all three posts by contacting:

E-mail: carrie.barta@wainwright.army.mil, Phone: 907-353-9507
or
E-mail: gary.larsen@richardson.army.mil, Phone: 907-384-3074

Carrie Barta
Directorate of Public Works
ATTN: APVR-WPW-EV
1060 Gaffney Road #6500
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-6500

Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Fort Collins CO 80523
Permit Number 19



February 2001

U.S. ARMY ALASKA

Volume 1, Number 1

IN THIS ISSUE: Updates to Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans

From the wetlands of the Tanana Flats and the braided floodplain of the Delta River to the snow-capped peaks of the Chugach Mountains, the U.S. Army is privileged to be a part of Alaska’s productive natural ecosystems. With the use of these lands comes an important stewardship responsibility to which U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) is fully committed. These lands are critical to the military’s mission and vitally important to the environmental health of Alaska. The lands of Forts Greely, Richardson, and Wainwright have been used to serve this nation’s defense for well over half a century, and this legacy is not taken lightly by those who use and manage USARAK’s lands today. Natural resource management efforts are dedicated to the next generation of soldiers, Alaskans, and Americans who will use these lands and their natural resources into the future.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Army’s commitment to natural resources management is emphasized in Army Regulation 200-3 (*Natural Resources–Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management*), which requires that Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMP) be developed and maintained for all Army installations. Each plan must be consistent with the use of military lands to ensure military preparedness and cannot result in any net loss in the capability of the installation to support the military mission. In addition, the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 (SAIA), Public Law 105-85, requires that existing INRMPs be reviewed on a regular basis, but not less than every five years to determine if updates are necessary to attain Army objectives for mission and environmental stewardship. The current INRMPs will expire in 2002. This newsletter marks the beginning of USARAK’s effort to update the Forts Greely, Richardson, and Wainwright INRMPs for 2002–2006.

INRMP GOALS

The following general goals are USARAK’s commitment to manage natural resources at Forts Greely, Richardson, and Wainwright. These goals not only support excellent management of natural resources, but also uphold the overall military mission.

- ❖ Stewardship - Manage natural resources to ensure good stewardship of public lands that are entrusted to the Army’s care.
- ❖ Military Readiness - Provide quality natural resources as critical training assets.
- ❖ Compliance - Comply with laws and regulations that pertain to management of natural resources.
- ❖ Quality of Life - Improve the quality of life for the community by providing high quality natural resource based recreational opportunities.